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MAY 16 2012

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker
and the Rapid City Council
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Date: May 16th, 2012

In reference to the proposed height of fifteen stories for the Presidents Plaza to be built in down town Rapid City, SD;

When "Mount Rushmore" was being considered as a project, the concerns of the people at the time were much the same as the concerns of the people now about the proposed Presidents Plaza.

People were afraid Mt. Rushmore would take away from the serenity of the Black Hills. Much the same fear people have today about the proposed height of Presidents Plaza.

Now people are happy that we have MT. Rushmore, much of Rapid City and the Black Hills economy depends on the tourist traffic it creates.

So height is good. Mt. Rushmore enhances the serenity of the Black Hills. It's peaceful view is very relaxing and gives us a feeling of accomplishment. We are proud of Mt. Rushmore and we have made national & international history.

It is time to make history again! To be the first to build the fifteen story Presidents Plaza in downtown Rapid City, SD. The first 15 story structure in South Dakota.

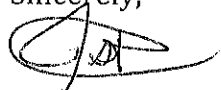
We need to keep mind that peace and serenity are wonderful for MT. Rushmore. However; we want the hustle and bustle of thriving enterprise downtown. We have to step outside of "the box" and consider that the 15 story height of the Presidents Plaza is going to house many new businesses & opportunities for the R.C. community. It will complement the existing downtown. It would take up quite a bit of the downtown area of one and two story structures to provide all of what the Presidents Plaza can offer in it's 15 story capacity. We most definitely would not have room for all of it.

So in reality, we are unable to grow sideways downtown. So than "we must grow up!" Because downtown Rapid City needs to thrive, we must approve the Historical Venture of building the fifteen story Presidents Plaza and grow-upward.

Since a lot of Rapid City is built on hills, many of the structure appear well over 15 stories high. The KOTA TV weatherman in Rapid City Mike Modrick stated that the Alex Johnson Hotel was 12 stories high. I would guess that with its tall sign it's a little more than that.

As our children and grandchildren graduate from college, technical college, etc. we would like for them to work and live here in Rapid City. There is also, much speculation that the energy boom is headed our way. So we must continue to attract new businesses and enterprise, to build new & improved housing and to take advantage of opportunities such as the proposed Presidents Plaza. We need to keep up and keep ahead. Many good changes are coming and we need to be part of it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. St. Claire', written over a horizontal line.

Jacque St. Claire